Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2187

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP

1. PARTY ACCESS TO MEDIA DURING CAMPAIGN:

THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION DECIDED MARCH 20 TO CONVOKE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 12 POLITICAL PARTIES RUNNING IN THE ELECTIONS FOR A MRCH 26 DRAWING TO ALLOT TV-RADIO TIME SPOTS. EACH PARTY WILL RECEIVE EQUAL TIME. WEEKDAYS THERE WILL BE 10-MINUTE MORNING TV TIME SLOT AND 30 MINUTES IN EVENING FOR PARTIES; ON SATURDAYS 10 MINUTES IN THE MORNING AND 40 MINUTES AT NIGHT; AND ON SUNDAYS 30 MINUTES IN THE EVENING.

2. PARTIES PROTEST PDC/MRPP/AOC SUSPENSIONS:

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THE SOCIALISTS, THE PPM, PUP, PRT AND THE PRP-BR HAVE PRO-

TESTED AGAINST THE RECENT SUSPENSION BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF ONE OF ALL OF THE THREE PARTIES FROM THE ELECTIONS. THE MARCH 21 MORNING PRESS CARRIED WITHOUT COMMENT ADVERSE FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTARY REGARDING THESE SUSPENSIONS.

3. PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS ON NEW CABINET: THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CABINET CHANGES HE WILL MAKE. DR. JOAO CARVINHO (DIRECTOR OF BASIC STUDIES IN SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. WAS ASSOCIATED WITH PRE-CONGRESS MES), PROF. PEREIRA DE MOURA (MDP LEADER AND FORMER MINISTER IN FIRST PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT), AND MARIO MURTEIRA (VICE GOVERNOR OF BANK OF PORTUGAL, AND MDP LEADER), ARE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE CONSULTED WITH PRIME MINISTER IN LAST FEW DAYS. OTHERS WHO HAVE CONSULTED WITH PM AND WHO MAY BE SLATED FOR CABINET POSITIONS ARE: JOSE MANUEL TENGARRINHA. MDP LEADER; MAJ. MELO ANTUNES, ALVARO CUNHAL; MAGALHAES MOTA; AND MARIO SOARES. PPD SOURCES TELL US THAT THYE EXPECT TO RECEIVE TWO PORTFOLIOS IN NEW GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TERMINATED PRELIMINARY ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WITH THE PPD. PCP. PS AND MDP. A SECOND ROUND IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN MARCH 21 OR 22.

4. ADM. ROSA COUTINHO ON PARTIES:

ADM. ROSA COUTINHO, AN IMPORTANT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER, TOLD AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 20 THAT IN HIS OPINION PPD WAS HEADING FOR DISASTER AT POLLS BECAUSE IT WAS PUSHING TOO HARD AND ITS CAMPAIGN WAS TOO VIOLENT. INDICATING GREAT DISLIKE FOR THE SOCIALISTS, COUNTINHO SAID THAT PS WAS INTERNALLY DIVIDED BECAUSE IT WAS GOING BEYOND WHAT ITS POLITICAL AS WOULD SUPPORT. COUTINHO SAID THAT PS NOT DOING COUNTRY ANY GOOD. INTERESTINGLY, HE HAD KINDER WORDS FOR CDS ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT SHARE THEIR PHILOSOPHY.

(COMMENT: JUDGING FROM EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS WITH PPD AND PS LEADERS, THESE PARTIES RECIPROCATE COUTINHO'S APPARENT ANTIPATHY TOWARDS THEM.)
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